

Queerest of Lead Pencils.

A German exchange gives an account of a bit of smuggling rascality which would do credit to the sharpest of Yankee malefactors. The Russian Government knew that counterfeit paper money was being brought into the country, crossing the frontier at a certain place, but for a long time could not ascertain how it got in.

At last the scheme was revealed by an accident. The money was rolled tightly into the holes in the center of lead pencils, the ends of which were filled with graphite as usual. A case of pencils fell from a wagon as it was being inspected; the inspector put a pencil in his pocket, and after a time sharpened it and used it. Presently, of course, he came to the hollow and pulled out a counterfeit bank bill. —Philadelphia Record.

Barney Barnato's Stables.

They tell an amusing story of Barney Barnato. Not long ago he purchased the site for a London house very near the town house of Baron Rothschild. It is required of persons who buy property in that locality that they shall build houses to cost not less than £20,000. The attorney forgot to put that stipulation in the transfer sent to Barney, and later informed him of the fact. Barney replied: "Do not trouble yourself, sir. My stables will cost more than £20,000."

The mania for collecting stamps and the high prices which some command, has just, says the London American, caused the discharge of a number of minor officials in the United States Treasury. There was occasion a few days ago to refer to some old documents in a Treasury vault, when the astounding discovery was made that hundreds of valuable papers had been badly mutilated by some one in his efforts to remove old revenue stamps. Suspicion was aroused by certain actions of a negro. He was found to be in communication with certain stamp dealers, and when confronted with proof of his guilt confessed, alleging, however, that a score of employees were in the conspiracy, and that some extraordinary prices had been obtained for stamps thus stolen.

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